



Living churches at the heart of their communities...

**St Giles', Durham,
St Cuthbert's, Shadforth and St Mary's, Sherburn**

Second Sunday Before Lent



*Proverbs 8. 1, 22-31
Colossians 1.15-20; John 1.1-14*

Sunday 4th February 2024

Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all
things,
now and for ever.

All Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

Proverbs 8. 1, 22-31

Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.
Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—
when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.
When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker;

and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Paul's Letter to the Colossians

Colossians 1.15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

A Reading from the Gospel of John

Priest Alleluia, alleluia.
Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.
You have the words of eternal life.

All Alleluia.

Priest Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

John 1.1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator,
by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Church Notices

Sunday services at St Cuthbert's – please note that regular Sunday services will now be held on the last Sunday of each month.

St Cuthbert's weekly Wednesday Mass is at 18.00. The setting is Anglo-Catholic with incense and bells and offers a high Anglican form of worship.

The Bereavement Group meets every Friday 10.30 to 12.00 in the church hall at St Giles'.

General Notices

Please continue to pray for all of those who have recently died and for their families and friends - for Kevin Robinson, Jack Shepherd, Anne Harker, Doris Jordan, Stephen Foster, Chris Beale and Alice Errington. Please also pray for those who are sick or alone. Please continue to pray for people affected by the ongoing wars in Ukraine, Israel, Gaza and the Holy Land. Pray for the dead, the families and all those affected, an end to conflict and the work towards reconciliation. Please also pray for all victims of man-made and natural disasters across the world.

St Mary's

Thursday 8th February – Holy Communion at 10.00

St Mary's Food Bank - please drop your food donations for Durham Food Bank on the table in the Narthex at the back of the church. Thank you.

Crosstalk church magazine subscriptions for £7.00 are due. Would all those who deliver ensure they are collected as soon as possible and given to Paul or Alison?

St Cuthbert's

The first **coffee morning** of the New Year will be held on **Saturday, February 10th** from 10.30 till 12.30.

Crosstalk church magazine subscriptions for £7.00 are due. Would all those who deliver ensure they are collected as soon as possible and given to Joan.

All those who have a **Children's Society Box** are asked to return them to church please. Thank you.

St Giles'

St Giles' PCC meeting is on Wednesday 7th February at 19.00.

Every Sunday Evening – Evening Prayer at St Giles' at 18.00 – you can also take part on Zoom.

Every Wednesday at St Giles' - a service of Holy Communion at 10.00.

Office Number – 0191 374 1079